

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY
OFFICE OF PROGRAM SERVICES
PROGRAM PROFILE

NIATx
(Network for Improvement of Addictions Treatment)

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Who Can I Contact At DBHR For More Information?

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What Is The Program Description?

The NIATx Program began with a federal NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse) grant in 2005 as a response to various issues with patient flow in the chemical dependency treatment system in Washington State. The program is a research project designed to use various methods in teaching process improvement principles to chemical dependency treatment providers in an effort to improve services and efficiencies, ultimately improving the agency's bottom line. Roughly 50 treatment providers were recruited and chosen to participate in the research. The methods of teaching the principles included: (1) learning sessions – 1.5 day sessions where a specialized team of coaches from the University of Wisconsin trained providers in process improvement, (2) interest circle calls – conference calls held monthly on various topics surrounding process improvement, (3) coaching – agency was assigned a coach and the coach went onsite and used phone coaching to teach the principles, and (4) the Web site for NIATx which contains tool kits for NIATx implementation for agencies to use. Total participation was 38 agencies after the recruitment. The final goal of the NIATx 200 project is to sustain the changes made possible by NIATx and spread the NIATx principles throughout the state. We are currently in the final year of this grant and the sustainability activities directly funded by the grant will be complete in May 2010.

What Populations Are Served/ Who Is Eligible For These Services?

Outpatient chemical dependency treatment providers with greater than 60 admissions to treatment yearly.

How Many People Are Served During The Biennium?

38 chemical dependency treatment agencies were served initially. The principles will be spread to as many chemical dependency treatment agencies as possible in the sustainability and spread of NIATx.

What Is The Biennial Funding Amount and Source(s)?

Funding was for \$251,000 for four (4) years beginning June 2005. Funding source is a NIDA grant managed and facilitated by the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

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What Would Be The Impact If This Program Was No Longer Available?

The chemical dependency treatment system would not be further educated on the NIATx principles and this low-cost service would not be able to impact the business practices of the agencies that it could reach. There would be no mechanism to pass these processes on to more providers.

What Agencies Collaborate With DBHR To Deliver These Services?

The State of Michigan, the State of Oregon, the State of New York, the State of Massachusetts, the University of Wisconsin, the Oregon Health & Science University, the Northwest Frontier ATTC (Addictions Technology Transfer Center), NIDA.

What Are The Sources For Program Data or More Information?

www.niatx.net

Any Other Comments?

This model of improving processes has been shown to reduce wait times, reduce no-shows to care, increase admissions to care and increase continuation in treatment. This model has not only been shown to be effective in chemical dependency treatment, but as an organizational improvement model for all types of organizations including (but not limited to): state and local governments, manufacturing businesses, medical clinics, and other industry-related business.